

From: Alice Gebura <phone62alice@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 4:50 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; ward5@ci.stpaul.mn; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Amending Title IV of the Administrative Code to add Chapter 92, titled Tree Preservation for City

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

To: Anika Bowie & Saint Paul City Council

From: Alice Gebura

Date: January 22, 2025

RE: Amending Title IV of the Administrative Code to add Chapter 92, titled Tree Preservation for City Sponsored Projects

I am writing to voice my concerns about Councilman Noecker's Tree Ordinance. While I wholly support a Tree Preservation Ordinance for Saint Paul, the one on the table is so vague and ambiguous that it is more lipstick on a pig than it is serious legislation. Its many shortcomings tell me this is either naïve statesmanship or a cynical snow job. For example, the proposed ordinance spends more page space on exemptions than it does on real enforcement. In fact, a two-page tree ordinance begs the question if this even a serious effort. But it's not my concern to characterize the intent. I will assume that such an ordinance is being put in place as a sincere attempt to preserve the tree canopy for the reasons stated in Section 1.

For a tree ordinance to mean anything, it must be substantive. A serious ordinance will:

- 1) Call for an inventory that designates specific, labeled zones of preservation identified on maps of the city.
- 2) Be primarily directed at providing protection for native trees, trees with historical significance, or trees over a certain trunk diameter. It will require that a permit be obtained before protected trees can be removed, encroached upon, or in some cases, pruned. We are within our rights to have a tree protection ordinance that outright disallows the removal of specifically identified valuable trees.
- 3) A tree ordinance with real power includes prohibited activities concerning the inventory with procedures in place such as permit and public hearing requirements for any work on the inventory. If this would bog down the business of the City Council, it can belong to a preservation or environmental commission.

Instead of voting to pass this anemic and impotent ordinance, the City Council should instead vote to establish a committee for the purpose of researching tree ordinances in other jurisdictions and coming back to the Council with recommendations for an ordinance that has some teeth to it.

Alice Gebura
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